



• INFO memo - Jan. 9, 2004

City of Broken Arrow
P.O. Box 610
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
www.brokenarrowok.gov

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

New Sales Tax Schedules on City Web Site

A sales tax increase in Tulsa County went into effect Jan. 1, but total sales taxes are still less in Tulsa County than in Wagoner County, reported City of Broken Arrow Controller Jay Heinrichs.

The State of Oklahoma, City of BA and Tulsa County retail sales taxes total 9.017 percent, said Heinrichs, who put together the complete sales tax schedule for use on the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov). Wagoner County sales taxes total 9.850 percent.

The sales tax increase (6/10ths of a penny) in Tulsa County is being used to pay for bonds passed by citizens on the Vision 2025 project. The new figure is 1.017 percent, compared to 1.850 percent in Wagoner County. The State's sales tax is 4.500 percent and the City of Broken Arrow's is 3.500 percent.

On the Home Page of the City's web site is a link to the new tax figures, including the complete schedule followed by retailers. There is also a link to the State of Oklahoma Tax Commission's page on the new rates and effective dates.

BA Police Marketing Torch Run Merchandise

One of the projects which has been near and dear to the Broken Arrow Police Department and law enforcement agencies throughout the nation each year has been the Special Olympics.

The BAPD has participated each year in the Torch Run, which transports the lit Special Olympics torch across the state to the State Special Olympics in the spring.

Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist with the BAPD, announced this week that new Torch Run merchandise for 2004 is now available. While it is designed for and used primarily by law enforcement personnel, that merchandise can be purchased by the public.

Last year the sale of that merchandise raised over \$40,000 for the Special Olympics of Oklahoma. The tee-shirts, polos, hats and pins have become collectable items for law enforcement officers.

Orders made now at the BAPD will be picked up in Oklahoma City on Jan. 19. After that time, delivery will take from 7 to 10 days from time of the order.

Short-sleeve tee-shirts are \$10, long-sleeve shirts \$12, polos \$30, hats \$10 and pins \$3.

There is a Home Page link from the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov) to more information on the merchandise, including a photo of the 2004 logo. Ford may be reached at 451-8213.

New Police Officer Sworn In

Broken Arrow's Police Department grew by one Thursday when Jake Westerfield took the Oath of office and had his badge pinned on by his mother, Susan Westerfield.

There is one more officer in training and due to be sworn in in the near future, while yet another officer just began training.

Westerfield will be 22 in February. He was born in Hays, Kan., and graduated from Owasso High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology/Criminology from the University of Oklahoma in May of 2003 and graduated from the Oklahoma Police Corps Academy this past November.

His parents are Scott and Susan Westerfield. He has two younger brothers, Caleb and Luke.

City Honors 'Free Enterprise Week'

"Free Enterprise Week" will be observed next week (Jan. 12-16) by the City of Broken Arrow, with a proclamation issued by Mayor Richard Carter. The proclamation was presented to representatives of the Broken Arrow High School DECA program at Monday night's City Council meeting by Vice-Mayor Craig Thurmond.

Juniors Jana Wingo and Nate Ellman were on hand for the presentation at the Council meeting. Susan Krebsbach, teacher and sponsor for DECA at BAHS, was also in attendance. She reports that there are 160 students in the chapter there, taking a one-hour class on marketing education, as well as participating in the chapter and some vocational education experiences.

The proclamation stated in part that: "Free enterprise gives the United States and its citizens the opportunity to prosper, ought to be promoted in the City of Broken Arrow and that member of the BAHS DECA chapter understand and desire to promote the great importance of free enterprise in the city."

Police Officers Reach Out to Help One of Their Own

Phil Yager, a former City employee who has been serving as a Reserve Police Officer with the BAPD, is one of those who has been a part of many programs the department participates in each year around the holidays to help those less fortunate than others.

This holiday season Phil and his wife Jackie were on the receiving end. They had no idea what was being done for them until they came to the Police Department on Dec. 19 and were given gifts and cash totaling \$1,344.

Jackie was seriously injured last September in a fall at the Tulsa State Fair when a railing gave way. She has not been able to work since that time and long ago depleted the paid time she had accrued.

So while the members of the department were raising money and working to shop for gifts for needy children and families in the community, they quietly put together another project to help Phil and Jackie.

Each year the City provides employees with gift certificates for \$14 (the average cost of a turkey) at Reasor's. With Tracy Lee, Administrative Assistant at the BAPD, organizing the effort, a total of 91 members of the department donated those certificates to the Yager family. There was also a gift certificate to a local restaurant and a cash donation.

Lee e-mailed PD members that, "He had no idea what we were doing, so you can just imagine how surprised and appreciative he was."

Community Center Site of Softball Registration

The Broken Arrow Community Center will host registration for the Broken Arrow Girls Softball League spring season of 2004 on the next three Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. There will also be a Tuesday night, Jan. 20, signup from 6 to 8 p.m.

There will be a \$10 late fee for all registrations received after Jan. 24.

Girls must be 4 years old before Dec. 31, 2003, to participate. There are leagues for T-ball, coach pitch, recreational 8-under and 10-under, along with rec-12, 14 and 16 and 18, as well as competitive leagues for 10-under, 12, 14 and 16 and 18.

Practices begin March 1 and games start March 29. The BAGSL uses the Central Park and Arrowhead Park softball complexes.

For additional information call 251-0868.

BA Community Playhouse Sets Auditions, Performances

The Broken Arrow Community Playhouse will be holding auditions for "The Curious Savage" next month while starting a two-weekend run of "Barefoot in the Park" at The Main Place Feb. 6.

Auditions will be held Sunday, Feb. 8, at 5 p.m. for "Curious Savage," with the director needing six women and five men in the cast. That show will open March 26-27.

“Barefoot in the Park” will open Feb. 6 and 7 on the BACP stage in The Main Place (1800 S. Main), with additional evening (8:00) performances Feb. 12, 13 and 14 and a Sunday matinee Feb. 15 (2:00).

That show is being directed by Christy O’Connor.

The Main Place is a City of Broken Arrow facility which is home of the BACP, BA Seniors, Inc., the BA Historical Society and BA Genealogical Society.

Parents Thank Police for ‘Compassion’

Parents of a young man killed in an automobile collision last year wrote a touching letter to BA Police Officer Tim Collins, thanking him and others in the department who worked the crash.

“During the time of (our son’s) death, you showed us compassion, sensitivity and kindness as grieving parents,” the letter said. “You answered our questions and we know put in hundreds of hours on his case. And you continued to do so for months following. We realize it is your job, but it is important for us that we let you know how well we think you do it.”

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald commended Collins for his work. The Chief also congratulated Sgt. Travis Blevins and Det. Debbie Erfurdt after they made an arrest of a suspect in a purse snatching incident at a local grocery store recently. The victims of that crime wrote in praise of the BAPD, thinking they would never find out who stole the purse.

But, as Wuestewald stated, “This took some good old fashioned ‘gum-shoe’ detective work, but paid off in the resolution of a serious crime. It is important that our citizens feel safe in their community; that they can do their shopping without fear of being mugged. You demonstrated that this sort of crime will not be tolerated here. Thank you and well done!”